GGR 390H1F - Field Camp 2021 - Information

GGR390H1F (Fall 2021) is an introduction to field methods in vegetation/forest mapping/analysis, soils, hydrology, climatology and geomorphology. The course includes field exercises and a group field project during a five-day period just before the start of fall classes. There is a small amount of preparation during the summer of 2021 (readings), complementary practical/lab work and with just a few formal meetings during the Fall Term.

- Each student will need to contribute to the costs of transportation for day-trips to Koffler Scientific Reserve (KSR). We will know by early summer if overnight stay (accommodation and meals) might be an option and update everyone at that time. For now, the cost of $140/person is to cover bus transportation costs of return trips from the Vaughn Metro Centre TTC Station and KSR each day.

- Registration in the course is done manually in July by the department. All students who submitted a ballot for the course (and that ballot was approved) will be registered.

- Prerequisites: one FCE from any of GGR100H1, GGR201H1, GGR203H1, GGR205H1, GGR206H1, GGR305H1, ESS102H1, ENV234H1 or permission of instructor (note that Majors and Specialists in the Physical and Environmental Geography program have first priority for spaces).

- Recommended Preparation: at least 8.0 FCE’s

- Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Science course

UofT’s Koffler Scientific Reserve is situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) near King City. This is one of the few opportunities we have in Physical Geography for a concentrated period of more than just one day in which to conduct field work. It is usually a very positive experiential and group learning activity for students and instructors alike.

The dates for field camp are:

**Start:** Monday August 30th, 2021
meet at 08:00 at Vaughn Metro Centre each day returning there by 17:00 each day. Exact meeting location is TBA in late August.

**Finish:** Friday September 3rd, 2021 (by end of day)

If we are allowed to use KSR accommodation we would travel by bus from St. George campus. Housing would be in separate houses on the property. Each house has bedrooms mostly with bunk-bed style sleeping (2-4 persons per bedroom). You would need to bring your own sleeping bag, pillow and toiletries. We would use one of the houses as a group gathering place for meetings and meals. Food for all 3 daily meals will be provided. There would be modest additional costs for food and housing. Again, no decision has been made yet on this. We will plan for day trips and only pivot to this option if approved.
**Required Gear**

- Good footwear for hiking in open fields and forests. It can be very wet, and in places, muddy, so make sure your footwear has good soles. Running shoes will not be sufficient. There are plenty of inexpensive good hiking trail boots (light to moderate level on trail/off-trail difficulty). Canadian Tire, Walmart and other retailers have good prices.
- Pencils, pens and marker, metric ruler, pocket calculator.
- For the day trip option just a calculator is needed.
- Water resistant field note book (clip boards are okay in good weather, but not in rainy conditions).
- Morning dew or rain can make open areas very wet. If you already own a pair of rubber boots consider bringing them along for work around stream edges and in shallow water. We will have a limited number of rubber boots and waders in a few different sizes.
- Complete rain gear.
- A leak-proof water bottle or two (1 L minimum capacity) for hikes to field sites.
- A tupper-ware like container to hold your lunch so that it is not “crushed” in your day pack.
- Clothing for cold and rainy days; long pants is a must but you can also bring hiking shorts, hat, sunscreen for warm days. It can vary from quite cool (especially in the forest) to very hot. Come prepared with layers that you can take off and put on to adjust to changing conditions.
- Mosquitoes are more abundant in the forest than in open areas. We have to be aware of black-legged ticks. Long pants and sleeves are recommended. Essential for both of these is insect repellent (spary on pant legs for example). A body tick check at the end of the day is important (easy to do). We have never had a problem because everyone comes prepared. More on this topic before we leave.
- A camera (beyond a cell phone) is useful for documenting field evidence (if your hands are muddy your favorite cell phone-camera can get messy or accidently dropped in mud/water).
- If it is not windy, an umbrella makes ideal cover for writing and recording observations in your field note book while it is raining.
- You will need a day pack to lug this and your lunch around. Come prepared to spend each day outdoors regardless of weather!

There are 4 things you must do to register for the course.

1) Submit a ballot for the course and receive approval. See separate attachment.

2) You cannot register for GGR390H1F using normal ROSI processes. The enrolment indicator for GGR390H1F is “E”, meaning that the department will enrol only those whose ballots were approved! Once you are enrolled by the department, you must pay your tuition fees as you would for any other fall course. Please note that students who fill all their available slots for courses to the maximum allowed, and do not leave room for GGR390F during the course selection period, will have to contact the department to make
room for GGR390H1F. You must be registered to participate.

3) Mail in your payment of $140. Please make **cheques or money orders are payable to “University of Toronto”** and send to:

Dept. of Geography  
University of Toronto  
100 St. George St.  
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3  (Attn. GGR390H1F)

**Field Trip Costs: $140 to cover bus transport is due by June 21, 2021.**  
(note: for those students in financial need, there are options to apply for support, e.g. through your college, for these “required” experiences)

4) Complete the attached information form and return with your payment.

5) Once you are in the course, you will be asked to fill-out and sign a **field-work participation form** in advance of our departure.

Field work can be an enjoyable experience if you are adequately prepared. Part of this preparation is being aware of risks involved. Although we are working in the GTA region and mostly on UofT property, it is still important to be aware of your limitations and to make these known to an instructor at any time. More details on this will follow.

If you have any questions please contact us anytime. E-mail is best.

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